

From: ["Bryan, David" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DE67FD66319E475AA76B7FB0C64D64B5-BRYAN.DAVID>](mailto:Bryan.David@EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DE67FD66319E475AA76B7FB0C64D64B5-BRYAN.DAVID)
To: ["R7 Daily Digest" <INBOX>](#)
CC:
Date: 6/19/2014 3:29:18 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest - 6/20/14

OPA Daily Digest for 6/20/14

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. Sam Graves (Mo.); **Rep. Vicky Hartzler** (Mo.); **Rep. Jason Smith** (Mo.); **Rep. Ann Wagner** (Mo.); **Rep. Billy Long** (Mo.); **Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer** (Mo.); **Rep. Kevin Yoder** (Kan.); **Rep. Lynn Jenkins** (Kan.); **Rep. Adrian Smith** (Neb.) – Letter – 6/17/14: Concerns regarding the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting of Water Treatment Plant lime residuals along the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. Due: 7/2/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

None

Press Inquiries:

Associated Press, Kansas City - Maria Fisher – 6/2/14: Follow-up questions regarding National Zinc site in Cherryvale, Kan. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

LeMars Daily Sentinel (Iowa) – Bennet Goldstein – 6/11/14 - Questions about HWY3 PCE Site in LeMars, Iowa. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

KIOS Omaha Public Radio – Cheril Lee – 6/16/14: Requests interview on 6/19/14 about \$200,000 EPA Environmental Education Grant to the Omaha Healthy Kids Alliance for Grassroots Latino Environmental Education (GLEE) initiative in Omaha. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

KXCV Public Radio, Maryville, Mo. – Chris Rush – 6/18/19: Questions about June 19 EPA Region 7 news conference with Mo-Kan Regional Council in St. Joseph, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Quad-City Times – Ed Tibbetts – 6/19/14: Questions regarding how EPA derived the goals that were set as part of the proposed 111(d) rule and the Clean Power Plan. Referred to headquarters press office. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Omaha World-Herald – Nancy Gaarder – 6/19/14: Questions regarding the Chamber of Commerce report refuting EPA numbers on power plant emissions reductions and savings. Referred to headquarters press office. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Kansas Health Network/Kansas Public Radio - Bryan Thompson – 6/19/14: Request to conduct live interview with regional administrator regarding health impacts of the Clean Power Plan. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

St. Joseph News-Press – Ray Scherer – 6/19/14: Questions about EPA's \$1.2 million in Brownfields ARC funding and job training grants to the Mo-Kan Regional Council of St. Joseph, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

KQTV Channel 2, St. Joseph, Mo. – Sean Everson – 6/19/14: Questions about EPA's \$1.2 million in Brownfields ARC funding and job training grants to the Mo-Kan Regional Council of St. Joseph, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Associated Press, St. Louis – Jim Salter – 6/19/14: Questions about EPA's response to Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster's comments regarding the Agency's work at the West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

KWMU Public Radio, St. Louis – Veronique LaCapra – 6/19/14: Questions about EPA's response to Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster's comments regarding the Agency's work at the West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

Associated Press - Judge Clarifies Bridgeton Landfill Settlement - 6/19/14 - A federal judge has ruled that residents who collect damages from a \$6.8 million class-action settlement over the smoldering Bridgeton Landfill in St. Louis County can still pursue separate legal claims related to radiation risks. <http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2014/06/19/judge-clarifies-bridgeton-landfill-settlement/>

KSDK Ch. 5 St. Louis - Landfill lawsuit participants can return to court - 6/18/14 - Participants in a class-action lawsuit against the controversial Bridgeton Landfill have the right to take the company back to court, a federal judge ruled last week. According to the addendum, those who receive a settlement from the lawsuit will maintain a right to file a separate suit for radiation exposure in the future. <http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/local/2014/06/18/bridgeton-landfill-lawsuit-participants-court-addendum-radiation/10735037/>

Courthouse News Service - Deadline Extended in Landfill Class Action - 6/19/14 - A federal judge extended the opt-in deadline for neighbors of a landfill who were exposed to noxious odors to join a class action settlement, and clarified that joining the agreement does not wave rights to sue if contamination continues. <http://www.courthousenews.com/2014/06/19/68861.htm>

Lincoln Journal-Star (Neb.) - OPPD to cut emissions at coal plants - 6/19/14 - Responding to customer wishes and pending federal air quality regulations that could cost millions, the Omaha Public Power District announced Thursday it will phase out its aging North Omaha coal plant and reduce emissions at its Nebraska City coal plant. http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/oppd-to-cut-emissions-at-coal-plants/article_4262d0a9-5e5e-5416-b7de-523d32374071.html

Wayne County Journal (Mo.) - Another Sinkhole Develops at West Fork | Mine Employees Are Redeployed to Other Mines - 6/18/14 - A fourth sinkhole has reportedly developed at The Doe Run Company's West Fork mine in northwestern Reynolds County. In addition, cracks in the earth have also reportedly been detected, causing some consternation among local residents. http://www.waynecojournalbanner.com/business/article_f2bd76fc-f727-11e3-9010-0017a43b2370.html

KSN Ch. 3 Wichita - Another Wichita neighborhood to be connected to city lines | Residents say groundwater contamination is spreading - 6/18/14 - Another Wichita neighborhood will be connected to city lines. Residents who live on Rolling Hills Court in West Wichita filed a petition to be added onto the city's water because they say contamination is spreading. <http://ksn.com/2014/06/17/another-wichita-neighborhood-to-be-connected-to-city-lines/>

Wichita Eagle - Residents near contaminated groundwater to hook up to city water - 6/18/14 - Residents of an area in west Wichita near contaminated groundwater will get new lines connecting them to city water. <http://www.kansas.com/2014/06/18/3513849/residents-near-contaminated-groundwater.html>

The News-Leader; Springfield; Mo. - Opinion: Missouri doesn't benefit from coal - 6/17/14 - Sen. Roy Blunt should reconsider his position on the new EPA clean air standards regarding CO2 emissions and coal-fired power plants. In meeting past Environmental Protection Agency standards; U.S. industry has a consistent track record of breakthrough technical achievements; smart capital investment and creation of good-paying jobs. <http://www.news-leader.com/story/opinion/contributors/2014/06/17/missouri-benefit-coal/10698131/>

Nebraska Educational Television - EPA Plan To Limit Carbon Raises Questions For Nebraska Coal Plants - 6/18/14 - Nebraska gets lots of its electricity from generating stations that burn coal. But to address climate change, the Environmental Protection Agency says the state needs to cut carbon emissions by more than a fourth. That puts the future of those coal-fired plants, and the cheap electricity they produce, in question. <http://www.netnebraska.org/article/news/922690/epa-plan-limit-carbon-raises-questions-nebraska-coal-plants>

Daily Journal (Park Hills, Mo.) - Sand Mining: Restraining order issued against Ste. Genevieve County - 6/19/14 - Residents in the area of Trogdan and Colony Church roads say Summit

Proppants is not being fair in their business dealings as they attempt to build a sand mining operation near the rural intersection. http://dailyjournalonline.com/stegenevieve/news/restraining-order-issued-against-ste-genevieve-county/article_53da55d3-5c58-54a4-a6dc-7081e16f5963.html

Des Moines Register - Petroleum group: EPA moving too slowly on fuel mandate - 6/18/14 - A top oil and gas trade group criticized the agency in charge of overseeing the country's renewable fuels mandate for not yet announcing how much ethanol must be blended into the nation's gasoline supply this year, increasing uncertainty for those who must comply with the controversial requirement. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2014/06/18/epa-ethanol-criticism/10759947/>

NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

Argus Leader, Sioux Falls (S.D.) - Letter: Will EPA carbon standards hurt the economy? - 6/18/14 - I'm old enough to remember acid rain caused by sulfur emissions in the 1970s and how we were told cap and trade regulations would send the economy down in flames like a Japanese Zero at Midway, but a funny thing happened — the economy didn't tank, and acid rain is no longer a problem today. <http://www.argusleader.com/story/opinion/readers/2014/06/19/letter-will-epa-carbon-standards-hurt-economy/10831769/>

The News-Leader; Springfield; Mo. - Opinion: Missouri doesn't benefit from coal - 6/17/14 - Sen. Roy Blunt should reconsider his position on the new EPA clean air standards regarding CO2 emissions and coal-fired power plants. In meeting past Environmental Protection Agency standards; U.S. industry has a consistent track record of breakthrough technical achievements; smart capital investment and creation of good-paying jobs. <http://www.news-leader.com/story/opinion/contributors/2014/06/17/missouri-benefit-coal/10698131/>

WNAX Radio Yankton, S.D. - Nebraska Cattlemen Back Rickett's For Governor, Oppose WOTUS Rule - 6/19/14 - The other major issue to come out of their mid year meeting was the Association deciding to oppose EPA's proposed Waters of the U.S. rule, mainly for its expansion of regulatory powers. <http://wnax.com/news/180081-nebraska-cattlemen-back-ricketts-for-governor-oppose-wotus-rule/#sthash.AhI2umVc.dpuf>

Columbia Tribune (Mo.) - Editorial | Nuclear power: The re-emergence of William Miller - 6/18/14 - Every few months William Miller emerges from the murky periphery of the debate over our energy future to make the case once again for nuclear power. On Sunday I was pleased to see his smiling face and sensible words on our Opinion page. http://www.columbiatribune.com/opinion/the_tribunes_view/nuclear-power/article_52aed008-f708-11e3-9b19-10604b9f6eda.html

Columbia Tribune (Mo.) - Opinion: Nuclear key to Missouri's power future | Renewable standard won't work without it - 6/15/14 - It's increasingly doubtful Missouri will be able to shift away from heavy reliance on coal in the production of electricity. Not because of any lack of will on the part of Missourians, but because of a flaw in the state's renewable energy standard. http://www.columbiatribune.com/opinion/oped/nuclear-key-to-missouri-s-power-future/article_d2c6cab0-f358-11e3-acd2-10604b9f1ff4.html

Associated Press - Appeals court rejects \$240M award to Missouri residents from Herculaneum smelter lawsuit - 6/18/14 - A state appeals court has thrown out \$240 million in punitive damages awarded to 16 eastern Missouri residents who sued over health problems from the Herculaneum lead smelter. <http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/view/story/621ad88260344cb697d657d8b3f65a5c/MO--Smelter-Lawsuit>

Insurance Journal - Missouri Court Tosses \$240M Punitive Award from Smelter Lawsuit - 6/19/14 - A Missouri appeals court has thrown out \$240 million in punitive damages awarded to 16 eastern Missouri residents who sued over health problems from the Herculaneum lead smelter. <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/midwest/2014/06/19/332469.htm>

Lincoln Journal-Star (Neb.) - Report: Nebraska's waterways are 6th worst in nation for pollution - 6/19/14 - Nebraska's waterways are the sixth worst in the nation for toxic pollution, according to a report released Thursday, and most of the contamination is because of nitrates. http://journalstar.com/news/local/report-nebraska-s-waterways-are-th-worst-in-nation-for/article_b52146f6-a1e1-5c97-983c-93eadbf9e03d.html

Omaha World-Herald - Steele Flats latest wind farm to sprout in Nebraska, but future growth uncertain - A plan for Steele Flats to provide 40 percent of its power for a single industrial customer, Becton Dickinson and Co., could signal the potential for a new type of demand for wind energy. http://www.omaha.com/money/steele-flats-latest-wind-farm-to-sprout-in-nebraska-but/article_53f178b4-e97a-52bb-ab61-451e3034bc05.html

My Guidon (Fort Leonard Wood) - Protecting our streams, rivers and watersheds - 6/18/14 - Sixty-two percent of Fort Leonard Wood drains to the Roubidoux, while 38 percent drains to the Big Piney. Although water quality in the area is good, activities at Fort Leonard Wood and the surrounding areas create a complex resource management challenge. http://www.myguidon.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=17365&Itemid=39

York News Times (Neb.) - Sen. Fisher: Awash with Regulation - 6/18/14 - Unfortunately, the federal government is seeking to expand its land use authority, which will also increase its control

over our water supply. The fallout will end up costing farmers, ranchers, families, businesses, and local governments time and money to comply. http://www.yorknewstimes.com/editorial/awash-with-regulation/article_f44bbbac-f739-11e3-9e69-0019bb2963f4.html

Iowa Public Radio - Eating Broccoli May Give Harmful Chemicals The Boot - 6/18/14 - We get a little suspicious when we hear the claims that it's possible to get rid of the gunk that accumulates in our cells by doing a cleanse with "clean" foods. But what if some foods actually do help detox the body? <http://iowapublicradio.org/post/eating-broccoli-may-give-harmful-chemicals-boot>

The Hill - House GOP grills EPA official in first hearing on new carbon rule - 6/19/14 - House Republicans on Thursday grilled a top Environmental Protection Agency official in the first hearing on the administration's new standards for reducing carbon pollution from existing power plants. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/209952-gop-starts-climate-war-in-first-hearing-on-carbon-rules>

The Hill - McConnell: Dems afraid to fight Obama climate rule - 6/19/14 - Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) called Democrats chicken on Thursday for canceling a markup on its energy and water spending bill. The reason: an amendment from McConnell would have blocked President Obama's latest standards reducing carbon dioxide emissions from the nation's existing power plants. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/209905-mcconnell-dems-afraid-to-fight-obama-climate-rule>

E&E News - Signs point to 'affordable' carbon reduction program - 6/19/14 - Doomsday scenarios for the electric power sector in the wake of the Obama administration's proposal to cut power plant carbon dioxide emissions ignore the industry's ability to innovate and adapt to change, a senior U.S. EPA official said yesterday. <http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060001593>

Think Progress - Congressman To EPA: Why Do You Want To Kill People's Jobs And Families? - 6/19/14 - Congressional approval ratings are at an all time low of seven percent according to a Gallup poll released Thursday, and if they fall much lower they will approach the same percentage — three — of scientists who don't believe that humans are causing climate change. <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/06/19/3451020/house-epa-carbon-proposal-first-hearing/>

The Hill - House Republicans press EPA to nix climate rule - 6/19/14 - House Republicans are urging the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to withdraw its new proposal mandating existing power plants cut carbon dioxide emissions. The letter to the EPA comes on the same day the House held its first hearing on the new carbon rules. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/209973-84-house-republicans-press-epa-to-nix-climate-rule>

Huffington Post - U.S. Policymakers Falling Behind Corporate America on Clean Energy - 6/19/14 - Earlier this month, when the Environmental Protection Agency announced plans to reduce power plant carbon emissions by 30 percent, critics were quick to rattle off tired arguments, claiming that the new standards would wreck the economy. But this time many businesses opposed these claims. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mindy-s-lubber/us-policymakers-falling-b_b_5512223.html

The Hill - EPA chiefs who served under Republicans press for climate action - 6/18/14 - Four former Environmental Protection Agency administrators who served under Republican presidents on Wednesday said climate change should not be a partisan issue. The former EPA chiefs told reporters that Republican lawmakers who believe the climate is changing should speak out because voters will be on their side. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/209771-gop-tapped-epa-heads-public-demand-will-break-climate-discord>

Reuters - Republican ex-EPA chiefs voice support for new carbon rules - 6/18/14 - Rising public support for action on climate change bodes well for federal regulations announced this month to limit pollution from power plants, four Republican former chiefs of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said on Wednesday. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/06/18/usa-epa-republicans-idUSL2N0OZ16120140618>

The Hill - Study: EPA rule cheaper than climate change fallout for automakers - 6/04/14 - Automakers stand to lose far more money from weather-related disruptions than they do from rising electricity costs under the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed emissions standards for power plants, a new study finds. <http://thehill.com/regulation/208215-study-epa-rule-cheaper-than-climate-change-for-automakers>

Inside Climate - Republican EPA Chiefs: No Excuse for Congressional Climate Inaction - 6/18/14 - Hearing meant to highlight some bipartisanship on EPA's new climate plan did more to expose the deep partisan divide over the issue. <https://insideclimatenews.org/carbon-copy/20140618/republican-epa-chiefs-no-excuse-congressional-climate-inaction>

Mondaq - United States: The Third Piece Of EPA's Clean Power Plan: GHG Emission Limits For Modified And Reconstructed Power Plants - 6/17/14 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed greenhouse gas (GHG) regulations for "new" and "existing" power plants have received substantial media attention, but regulated parties should also be aware of the third piece of EPA's self-styled "Clean Power Plan": Proposed carbon dioxide (CO2) emission limits for "modified" and "reconstructed" electricity generating units (EGUs).

<http://www.mondaq.com/unitedstates/x/321074/Clean+Air+Pollution/The+Third+Piece+Of+EPAs+Clean+Power+Plan+GHG+Emission+Limits+For+Modified+And+Reconstructed+Power+Plants>

Huffington Post (blog) - The Clean Power Plan Means Changes for Coal, But Not the Ones You Might Expect - 6/17/14 - Before we get fired up about the changes, it's important to take a look at the facts: While states will need to retire coal plants at the end of their useful lives to meet the proposed limits, EPA's rule would give states a great amount of flexibility to avoid coal asset stranding and still meet emissions reduction targets. In fact, valuing the right services from coal plants will prove the more important question for a low-cost, low-carbon electricity system. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/karen-laughlin/the-clean-power-plan-carbon-emissions_b_5500884.html

TIME - Carbon Rules Show Bad Arithmetic - 6/19/14 - President Obama's Clean Power Plan—his Administration's historic proposal to regulate carbon emissions from power plants, hyped by supporters and detractors alike as a revolution in climate-change action—just doesn't add up. <http://time.com/2899506/obama-carbon-regulations/>

Roll Call - Long-Term Climate Control Thwarted by Partisanship - 6/17/14 - President Barack Obama has called for a national commitment to controlling climate change, but the market approaches and limited regulatory measures the government has been capable of in the past won't be able to deal with the problem fast enough to make much difference. http://www.rollcall.com/news/long_term_climate_control_thwarted_by_partisanship-233969-1.html

AgInfo.net - Waters of the U.S. - 6/19/14 - It's an uphill battle - but Congressional efforts to turn back EPA rules farmers and ranchers opposed could get new legs - especially after November. Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley says there could be target spending bills similar effort in the House. <http://www.aginfo.net/index.cfm/event/report/id/Line-on-Agriculture-28329>

Investor's Business Daily - Washington Wants To Regulate ... Everything - 6/18/14 - How much more control does the EPA want over an ostensibly free America? Given that it's set its sights on rain-swelled ditches and soggy gullies, it seems there are no limits to its confiscatory ambition. <http://news.investors.com/ibd-editorials/061814-705320-epa-army-corps-of-engineers-expand-regulation-reach-through-clean-water-act.htm>

Washington Post - Did EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy declare a 'war on coal'? - 6/19/14 - Can't be more clear: there is no war on coal. Clean Power Plan is about reducing pollution and fighting for public health. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker/wp/2014/06/19/did-epa-administrator-gina-mccarthy-declare-a-war-on-coal/>

The Hill - Senate Dems cancel spending bill vote amid GOP threat on EPA rules - 6/19/14 - Senate Democrats canceled a scheduled Thursday Appropriations Committee markup that could have opened the door to an amendment to block the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) latest climate rules. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/209893-senate-dems-cancel-spending-bill-vote-amid-gop-threat-on-epa-rules>

Associated Press - Asthma rates drop but experts not breathing easier - 6/19/14 - A new survey suggests asthma in the U.S. may finally be on the decline. But the results are so surprising that health officials are cautious about claiming a downturn. <http://www.kwwl.com/story/25819695/asthma-rates-drop-but-experts-not-breathing-easier>

Center for Biological Diversity - Lawsuit Launched to Clean Up Lead Air Pollution Across United States - 6/18/14 - Three environmental groups filed a formal notice of intent to sue the Environmental Protection Agency today for failing to ensure that people across the country are protected from dangerous lead in the air. nine states (including Iowa and Kansas) and Puerto Rico have not yet complied, and the EPA has failed to keep critically important lead reductions on track. http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/press_releases/2014/lead-06-18-2014.html

The Hill - Opinion: Great opportunity for Congress on energy - 6/19/14 - This Congress has been sharply criticized for not passing legislation with bipartisan support to benefit the American people. In the energy area, Congress now has a chance to take action which flies in the face of that criticism. <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/209801-great-opportunity-for-congress-on-energy>

The Hill - Opinion: On biomass, EPA should follow the science - 6/19/14 - Power plants here and abroad are ramping up use of this antiquated energy source - burning trees - based on faulty claims that it's renewable without acknowledging its impacts on our resources and climate. <http://thehill.com/opinion/op-ed/209863-on-biomass-epa-should-follow-the-science>

The Hill - Coal company sues EPA over climate rules - 6/18/14 - Coal mining company Murray Energy Corp. said it has filed a federal lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to stop its carbon emissions rules for power plants, calling them "illegal, irrational, and destructive cap-and-tax regulations." <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/209839-coal-company-sues-epa-over-climate-rules>

Forbes - Onsite Energy Generation Is Nice But Centralized Transmission Is Here To Stay - 6/19/14 - A growing economy also means rising energy demand. And the greater use of power will inevitably lead to the construction of more plants and wires as well as the use of more energy efficient and renewable technologies. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/kensilverstein/2014/06/19/onsite->

[energy-generation-is-nice-but-centralized-transmission-is-here-to-stay/](#)

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

Example: **EPA Inspection Reveals Violations of Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule for Sedalia, Mo., Renovation Company** – 6/2/14 – Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

Mo-Kan Regional Council to Apply \$1.2M in EPA Grants toward Environmental Job Training and Brownfields Redevelopment – 6/19/14 – Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

6/24-25/14 – Four-State Directors Meeting (with Joe Goffman), Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

7/9/14 – Waters of the U.S. events with Nancy Stoner, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

7/9/14 – Hinkson Creek meeting, Columbia, Mo. Contact: Shawn Grindstaff, 7274

7/11/14 – Joint R6/R7 COOP Meeting, Dallas, Texas. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7736

7/16/14 – Tribal Consultation Training, Regional Office. Contact: Heather Hamilton, 7039

7/21-22/14 – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

7/23-24/14 – National Tribal Operations Committee Meeting, Washington DC. Contact: Lynn Slugantz, 7883

7/28-30/14 – Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meeting, Niobara, Neb. Contact: Lynn Slugantz, 7883

DRA:

6/24-25/14 – Four State Directors Meeting, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

7/21-22/14 – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

***7/23-7/24/14** Executive Management Council Meeting, Washington, DC Contact: Dana Peters, x7444

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

9/29-30/14 - Healthy Schools Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers' Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and Harry Diesel, 7382

SUPR

None

WWPD

6/19-20/14 – Nebraska Game and Parks Field Tour, Lincoln, Neb. Contact: Heather Duncan, 7640

6/23-24/14 – Iowa Department of Natural Resources Copper Biotic Ligand Model Technical Meeting, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: John Reyna, 7021

6/23-26/14 – Office of Pesticide Programs/Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance National Federal Insecticide, Fungicide Rodenticide Act Supervisor's Meeting, Washington, DC. Contacts: Jamie Green, 7139, Royan Teter, 7609

6/24-26/14 – National Underground Injection Control Managers Meeting, Washington, DC. Contacts: Mary Mindrup, 7431, Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413

6/25/14 – Providing Technical Training on the Revised Total Coliform Rule for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Drinking Water Program, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Stan Calow, 7410

Petroleum group: EPA moving too slowly on fuel mandate

By Christopher Doering, DesMoines

1:08 p.m. CDT June 18, 2014

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2014/06/18/epa-ethanol-criticism/10759947/>

A top oil and gas trade group criticized the agency in charge of overseeing the country's renewable fuels mandate for not yet announcing how much ethanol must be blended into the nation's gasoline supply this year, increasing uncertainty for those who must comply with the controversial requirement.

The American Petroleum Institute, which represents 550 oil and natural gas companies, said Wednesday the delay has left its members that are responsible for complying with the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) to guess how much ethanol they have to blend.

In a letter to Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy sent Wednesday, Bob Greco, API's downstream group director, said the delays in implementing the Renewable Fuel Standard "are unacceptable, fundamentally unfair" and show a disregard for a deadline put in place by Congress.

Last week, EPA Deputy Administrator Bob Perciasepe said the agency expected to send the proposed 2014 blending requirements to the Office of Management and Budget, the agency tasked with vetting proposed regulations, "pretty soon."

"I can't predict where it's going to end, but certainly I've met with the agricultural groups, the administrator has met with the agricultural groups, we've gotten more data and we're looking very hard at this," he said in the interview.

The EPA is required to finalize the blending requirements for the following year by Nov. 30, a deadline the API said the agency hasn't met since 2011. The API, a long-time critic of the Renewable Fuel Standard, said it expects the 2014 requirements wouldn't be finalized "for several more months...perhaps not until September."

"We prefer the EPA gets its act together and finalizes this rule as quickly as possible," Greco told reporters. "Given the increasingly long delays in finalizing volume mandates each year, as well as the negative impacts on consumer property, market choice and the environment, it is clear that Congress must act to repeal the RFS outright."

Still, Greco acknowledged that while his group is optimistic Congress will move ahead on a reform or a repeal of the mandate, "it's a challenge given that it's an election year." He said the API would continue to push for change, and that momentum to overhaul the mandate would increase in Congress.

In November, the EPA proposed reducing ethanol produced from corn in 2014 to 13.01 billion gallons from 14.4 billion gallons initially required in the 2007 Renewable Fuel Standard, a law that requires refiners to buy alternative fuels made from corn, soybeans and other products to reduce the country's dependence on foreign energy. Those who follow the ethanol debate expect the EPA will increase the Renewable Fuel Standard blending level from the November estimate.

Corn and ethanol groups have criticized the cut, arguing it would hurt rural America, stifle job growth and slow momentum for the next-generation of ethanol, particularly next-generation fuels produced from crop waste, wood, grasses and other plants. Last year Iowa, the largest ethanol-producing state, accounted for roughly 28 percent of country's production. The state generated 3.7 billion gallons of ethanol from 42 plants in 2013.